

Message Text

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TAGS: OGEN, CA

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION CANADIAN PURCHASE LOCKHEED LRPA

1. CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO PURCHASE 18 ORION LRPAS FROM THE LOCKHEED CORP. OF BURBANK, CALIF., FIRST SURFACED AS MAJOR NEWS STORIES IN THE AFTERNOON PRESS AND ON EVENING RADIO, TV PROGRAMS JULY 20. CTV EVENING NEWS COMMENTARY JULY 20 CRITICIZED DECISION AS UNNECESSARY EXPENDITURE OF LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY WHEN SMALLER EXPENDITURE TO PURCHASE OFF-THE-SHLF MODELS COULD SUFFICE. CBC NATIONAL RADIO NEWS COMMENTARY MORNING JULY 21 FEACTURED CORRESPONDENT FROM TORONTO CRITICIZING ENTIRE DECISION TO PROCEED WITH THE ORION.

2. BILLION DOLLAR CONTRACT WITH LOCKHEED WAS ACTUALLY SIGNED BY SUPPLIES AND SERVICES MINISTER GOYER MORNING JULY 21, AND DEFENSE MINISTER RICHARDSON HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS THE 18 LRPSS NOW KNOWN IN CANADA AS THE AURORAS. AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE MR. RICHARDSON RELEASED SEVERAL DOCUMENTS INCLUDING THE TEXT OF THE US AIDE-MEMOIRE GIVING CERTAIN ASSURANCES TO THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ON THE LRPA. THE AFTERNOON OTTAWA PRESS, THE CITIZEN AND THE JOURNAL, CARRIED THE SIGNING AS FRONT PAGE ITEMS

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AND THE NEWS STORIES MENTIONED THE US AIDE-MEMOIRE OF ASSURANCES.

THE CANADIAN PRESS WIRE CARRIED EXCERPTS FROM THIS AIDE-
MEMOIRE TO MEDIA OUTLETS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

3. THE TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL JULY 22 CARRIED THE NEWS STORY
OF THE CONTRACT SIGNING IN SOME DETAIL ON AN INSIDE PAGE.
THE GLOBE AND MAIL RAN NO EDITORIAL.

4. THE OTTAWA CITIZEN JULY 22 COMMENTED EDITORIALY: "SO WHAT
ARE WE GETTING FOR OUR BILLION BUCKS? AN OLD AIRPLANE DESIGNED
TO DO NEW TRICKS, SOME CANADIAN CONTENT AND AN END TO ONE OF
THE WORST-MANAGED SIDESHOWS OF THIS GOVERNMENT.
"WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT ACTUALLY MADE THE RIGHT DECISION
IS STILL OPEN TO DEBATE."

THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER TO BUY
A FEW LRPAS FOR OFF-SHORENATO WORK AND THEN BUY THE
CANADIAN DESIGNED AND BUILT DASH-7 FOR PATROLLING THE COASTS
AND NOTHERN TERRITORIES.

5. MEDIA DISCUSSION LRPA CANADIAN PURCHASE FROM LOCKHEED WAS
INTENSE IN MAY WHEN CANADA DECIDED IT COULD NOT PROCEED WITH
AGREEMENT BECAUSE OF FUNDING DIFFICULTIES. THE MEDIA REACTION
IN JULY WHEN THESE DIFFICULTIES WERE STRAIGHTENED OUT AND THE
CONTRACT ACTUALLY SIGNED WAS CONSIDERABLY LESS INTENSE PER-
HAPS BECAUSE COMMENTATORS AND EDITORIAL WRITERS FELT THAT
MOST OF THE ARGUMENTS HAD BEEN LAID OUT AD NAUSEUM EARLIER.
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